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REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 13-20 and indicated that claims 4, 6-7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 4 and 6 and submits that they (and their dependent claims) are in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-22 will be pending, with claims 1, 4, 6, 7, and 21 being amended. Support for these amendments appears in the specification at pages 8-9. Support for new claim 22 appears in the specification at page 9.

Based on the above amendments and the below remarks, all pending claims are in a condition of allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

II. Drawings and Specification

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. His position is that the first and second pair of directional clutches engaging and disengaging with respect to the hand crank and the drive shaft (of claims 4 and 7) is not shown. The specification is also objected to on similar grounds – the Examiner states that the specification fails to explain how the first and second pair of clutches engage and disengage with respect to the hand crank and the drive shaft. The Examiner submits that corrected drawings and a substitute specification are required. Applicant respectfully submits otherwise.

The directional clutches work by rotation. This is explained by the specification at pages 8-9. Such clutches are widely used throughout the machine industry, and one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how a set of directional clutches works. One set of clutches rides free (or “slips,” see specification at page 9, line 14) while the other engages.

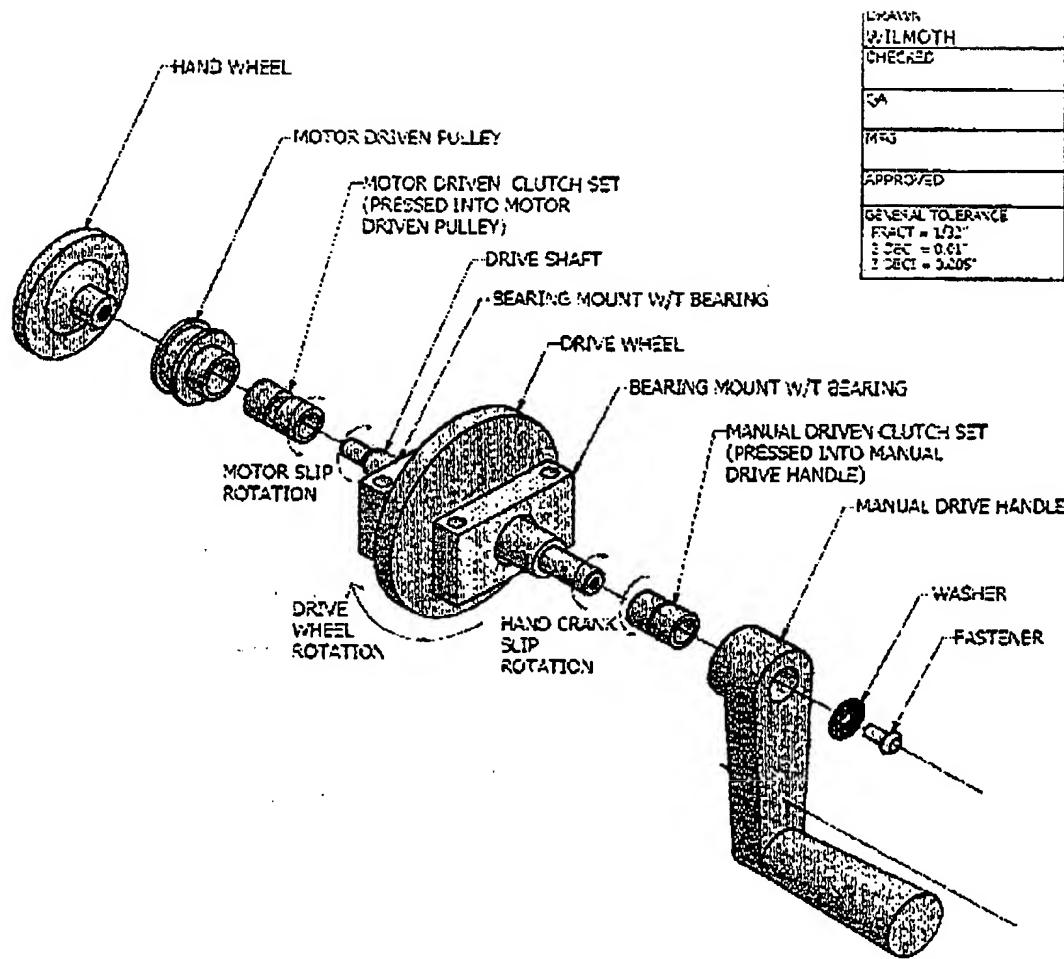
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For example, when the shaft is engaged by the hand crank in one direction (e.g., in a clockwise direction), the directional clutches of the hand crank grip the shaft so that the shaft can be manually turned. In other words, the hand crank clutches are activated when the hand crank is rotated in a specific direction. When the manual hand crank is not in use, the hand crank clutches are not engaged because the motor driven portion rotates in a separate direction. This causes the hand crank clutches to rotate in an opposite direction – a direction in which they do not engage and thus, slip or ride free. Then, when the motor driven pulley is activated, the motor driven clutch set is engaged because the motor driven pulley works in an opposite direction, allowing the motor driven clutches to engage (whereas they were not engaged and rode free when the hand crank was in use).

An example is shown below with directional arrows to assist with the Examiner's understanding. However, Applicant submits that this is a basic tenant of how clutches work, and it is well understood by those in the machine design art. Accordingly, these basic details do not need to be shown in the figures, nor do they need to be described in a new substitute specification. However, if the Examiner maintains this position and such description were to be added to the figures and specification, Applicant submits that it would not be new matter.

Applicant has taken known directional clutches and used them in a system for cutting a traveling web of paper so that the drive can be driven manually and by motor power, depending upon the needs of the system (and specifically in the event of a power outage). For example, this allows the system to be operated using manual power as a back-up if the electric system fails or otherwise becomes unworkable. See specification at page 3.

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III. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rodriguez '029 (U.S. Patent No. 4,659,029) in view of Lai (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,917) and claims 8, 10-12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Rodriguez '029 (U.S. Patent No. 4,659,029) in view of Lai (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,917) and Rodriguez '634 (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,634). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

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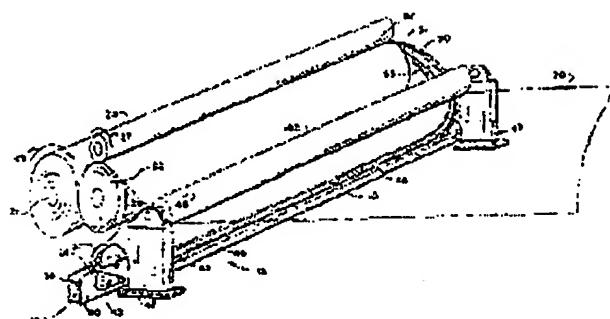
A. Rodriguez and Lai are not properly combinable

First, the Lai reference relates to a device for opening and closing a parasol.



FIG. 6

Figure from Lai



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transmission to control the opening and closing of the parasol. See Lai, col. 3, lines 22-34. This is not how the presently-claimed clutches work to control the manual and motor power switching. Instead, the presently-claimed clutches selectively engage and/or slip to allow the hand crank or the pulley to operate the drive shaft, depending on whether the clutches are being activated by the hand crank or the drive pulley.

Moreover, it bears noting that there is also no teaching or suggestion in Rodriguez to provide a system that can be powered by both manual power and motor power. The Rodriguez references only imply that *one of* manual power *or* electric power can be used. There is no teaching or suggestion to provide a system that can use manual power as a back-up if there is an electrical system failure or other failure that results in non-functioning of the automatic operation of the system.

IV. New Claim 22

Accordingly, new claim 22 should also be found patentable. It distinguishes over the Rodriguez patents because they do not teach or consider (1) manual and motor option interchangeability, nor do they teach or consider (2) a pneumatic system that can be controlled manually or automatically.

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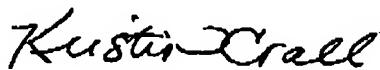
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CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-22 and issuance of a patent containing these claims in due course. If there remain any additional issues to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 404.815.6147.

Respectfully submitted,



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